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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Maxime Samain et al.

Group No.: 3636

Serial No.: 10/799,044

Atty. Docket No.: 41170-171

Filed: 03/12/2004

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MAR U 2006

For: Lumbar with Flexwires in Cross

Examiner: Brown, Peter R.

MAIL STOP Amendment Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

HONORABLE SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please enter the following preliminary amendment and consider the following remarks. It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this Amendment. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned for under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account 08-3460.